

THE COLONNADE

GEORGIA COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

GC DANCE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER See Pages 13 & 15

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November 29 - December 5, 2017

gcsuconnade.com

Photo courtesy of Ada Montgomery

Study abroad impact in Bahamas, pg. 4



GC Basketball preview, pg. 8 & 9

Get in the holiday spirit, pg. 12 - 14





THE COLONNADE

VOLUME 94 | NO. 9

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CORRECTIONS

In The Colonnade issue published on Thursday, Oct. 5, the News section contained an article incorrectly stating that Georgia College students taking any STEM course would receive a 0.5 point boost on their GPAs. In reality, the 0.5 point GPA boost only applies to students taking introductory STEM classes, meaning 1000 to 2000 level courses, and is not limited to STEM majors but applies to any student taking such an introductory level STEM course

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30 registered sex offenders live in proximity to GC

Zaria Gholston

Contributing Writer

Thirty registered sex offenders live within a two-mile radius of Georgia College's campus, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Sex Offender Registry.

When looking at this statistic, Carrie Cook, associate professor of criminal justice, government and sociology, urged caution, saying that the situation is complex and the justice system has blurred the lines between various sexual offenses.

"In general, sex offenders have been the target of recent punitive criminal justice policies in the last several decades," Cook said. "The criminal justice system has lumped all sex offenders into one category, such that we are unable to determine if a convicted sex offender has violated statutory rape laws or has committed heinous sex crimes against

children."

Cook said that not every crime labeled as a sexual offense is the same and that sometimes, external sources can generate a sense of what she called "moral panic."

"In sum, it is not useful to aggregate all sex offenders into one category, and it is also critical to keep in mind that

often the media and politicians can make the public more fearful of a particular type of crime or offender," Cook said.

Melissa Gerrior, program coordinator for the Women's Center and LGBTQ+ Center, appeared shocked to hear how many sex offenders live close to campus but quickly emphasized

that students and faculty have resources on campus to deflect cases of assault.

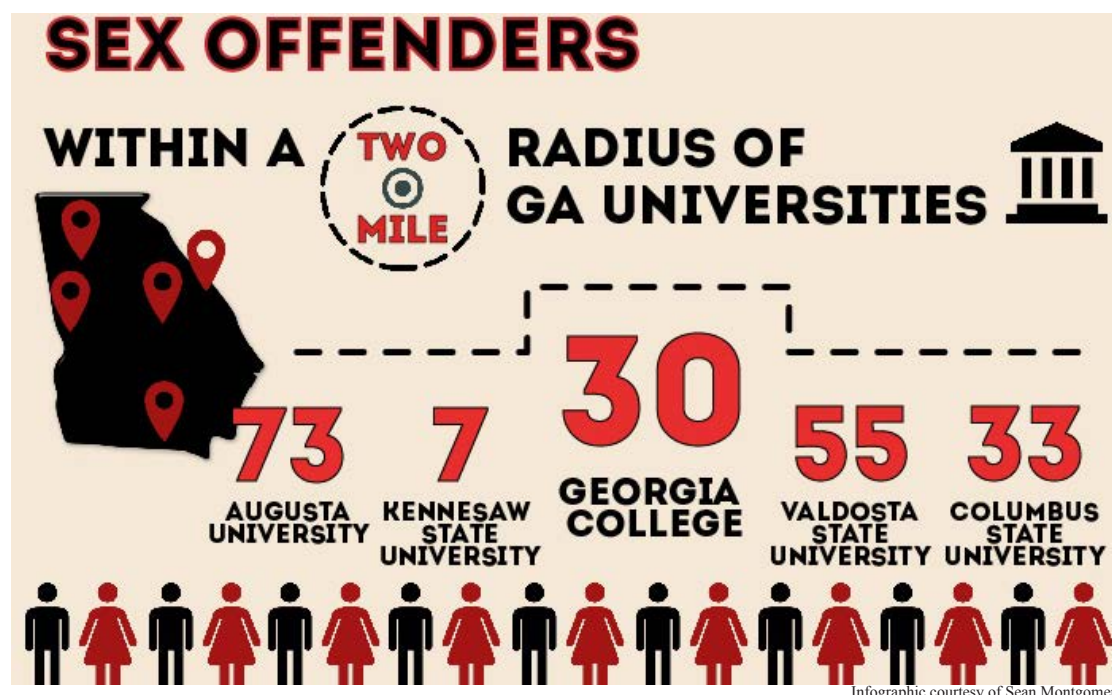
"What many people don't know or neglect to see is that 90% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows," Gerrior said. "Therefore we have trainings on campus to enforce bystander awareness."

Gerrior defined bystander awareness as an effort to put responsibility on everyone in the GC community to help prevent sexual violence and break away from the age-old "stranger danger" ideology surrounding sexual offense.

The reports of 2014 and 2015 had four sexual assaults each, while 2016 saw that number cut by half, with a total of two sexual assaults.

"These [statistics] represent crimes that were merely reported and [do not] represent convictions," said Michael Baker, sergeant of support services with GC Public Safety. "And all the reported rapes are non-stranger rapes, meaning the victim was acquainted with the offender."

Sexual assault on campus is measured through the Annual Security Report, a resource which gives the statistics on all crimes that occur on campus. Students, faculty and staff can locate this information on GC's Public Safety page under "Campus Crime Information."



GC emergency call boxes expensive, little used

Zaria Gholston

Contributing Writer

Georgia College has 67 emergency call boxes on campus which cost \$20,000 a year to maintain, but GC Police say they are rarely used for emergencies.

"Most calls received via the call boxes are accidental, pranks or in some cases the pizza delivery guy waiting to deliver a pizza at a residence hall," said GC Police Sgt. Michael Baker, who oversees emergency management operations.

The call boxes require a monthly phone subscription and annual maintenance.

"Each box has a phone line and power to them," said Mark Duclos, assistant vice president of Facility Operations. "The monthly cost for a phone line is \$23.17, times 67 boxes

times 12 months per year, equals \$18,628 per year for phone lines."

Duclos said annual power and maintenance expenses cost \$1,770.

The call boxes, built by Ramtel Corporation, provide the general public and students without cellphones an additional resource to seek help.

However, according to Sgt. Baker, the calls received from the boxes have been few and far between, with just three calls in the past five years, all pertaining to medical emergencies. The most recent call took place in September of this year.

Baker said that while the call boxes look nice and provide a sense of security to students and their parents, they may not be needed anymore due to many people having cellphones and safety apps such as RAVE Guardian, available for download on iOS and Android.

At the time of reporting, GC assistant director of Emergency Preparedness Anna Lumpkin said

that Public Safety has 1,227 registered users with RAVE.

"We do not have open access to user information at any given time," Lumpkin said. "Only specific info is visible to us, and only when someone is actively using an applicable component of the app."

Lumpkin went on to say that Public Safety cannot track users' locations or view any of their information via RAVE unless the app is being used in an emergency, i.e. a safety timer going off or a panic call being placed.

"The system is monitored by on-duty GC Public Safety Dispatchers, so therefore the primary cost is the annual license renewal for the RAVE Guardian App, which is \$4,500," Lumpkin said.

The RAVE Guardian app is branded as a "two-way critical communications and personal safety app," providing individuals a connection to their institution or organization's security resources.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

The emergency call boxes, each marked by a blue light at the top, are located around campus.

GC biology connects with San Salvadoran people

Madison Schomburger
Contributing Writer

The Georgia College International Education Center sends GC students all over the world for education and service opportunities, even to the Caribbean.

GC biology majors headed to the Bahamas last summer to help the Bahamian people learn more about their environment. A group composed of undergraduate students, graduate students and professors traveled to the country and stayed on San Salvador, a small island with a population of about one thousand.

It is the kind of place where everyone knows everyone, said GC graduate student Scott Johnson. The island is so small, in fact, that there is only one small resort on the island for tourists, which is one of the Bahamas' main sources of income.

The children in this particular area of the Bahamas have grown up with an abundance of fascinating sea life right in their back yard, yet they have never really had a chance to experience it in a learning environment. GC's students and faculty changed that for them.

GC students and faculty brought a "touch tank" with them to the island. The chaotic primary school children were captivated by the tank, which made sea life available for the children to touch and see as they learned. Johnson explained that the tank was not harmful to any of

the organisms involved and was closely monitored.

"My favorite part about studying abroad in San Salvador, Bahamas was being able to experience a community in person that is so [much more] diverse than the one we live in day-to-day here in Milledgeville," said senior Mary Richard Evans, a biology major.

The school was divided into grades and separated by multiple buildings. All of the students wore uniforms, but a few students who made good grades wore red vests and were in charge of helping the teachers of the school.

"The most impactful part of the trip for me personally was when we were able to visit the local elementary school on the island to teach the students about the various corals, echinoderms, and hermit crabs, [which are] referred to as soldier crabs on the island," Evans said. "It was so inspiring and fulfilling to see their faces light up when they were actually able to hold and see the creatures that many of them are not able to see otherwise because many of the children were never taught to swim and do not have access to snorkel gear."

Along with helping children understand the environment and organisms around them, GC students helped clean up San Salvador's beaches and created a makeshift shed out of the rubbish they gathered. They also collected organisms and conducted research.

"This was done hand-in-hand with the members of the San Salvador Island



Photo Courtesy of Scott Johnson

San Salvadoran elementary students experience the group's touch tank.

Living Jewels, and this NPO [Nonprofit Organization] then took ownership of the equipment and lessons to administer teaching training workshops and other conservation initiatives," said GC biology professor Melanie Devore. "As a result of these activities, our students truly connected with members of the local community.

They became partners in activities, and both Bahamians and our GC students were equal participants in projects."

The GC International Education Center will be conducting a similar trip to the Bahamas in summer 2018. For more information, visit their website or stop by the Bone House.



Photo Courtesy of Mary Richard Evans

The group from GC visited the Bahamian island of San Salvador.



Photo Courtesy of Mary Richard Evans

Undergraduates, graduate students and professors comprised GC's group.

Metro Atlanta dominates GC student body

Meredith Lawrence
Contributing Writer

Forty-one percent of GC's class of 2016 came from four counties in the Metro Atlanta region, while at least 25 rural counties did not contribute a single student.

"Our game plan is to grow our pool of diverse students while maintaining our strong connections to the Atlanta suburbs and other areas throughout Georgia," said Ramon Blakley, director of admissions at GC.

Fulton County yielded the highest percentage with 848 students, followed by Gwinnett County with 839, Cobb County with 521 and Dekalb County with 256. All of these counties are adjacent to one another. Nine counties out of the 30 that make up the metro Atlanta region accounted for 59 percent of the 2016 GC incoming class.

Although GC primarily recruits prospective students in Georgia, recruiters in 2017 have traveled to cities such as Nashville, Tennessee and Charlotte, North Carolina.

"We can define diversity on campus in many ways, including ethnic, geographic, religious, political diversity and more," said Will Brown, senior associate director of admissions. "All of these aspects are at the core of a liberal arts education in learning how to think critically and how to learn with an open mind."

GC has a selective application process, but the review process is the same for any

student in differing counties and states. The goal is to attract the best students.

"We evaluate the rigor of a student's high school curriculum within the context of the school they are coming from," Blakley said. "When we're able to hear directly from the students in their essays, evaluate their leadership potential in their resumes and read about their character and work ethic from their teachers/counselors, these help us to try to determine if the student will ultimately be successful at GC, both inside and outside of the classroom."

GC evaluates academic and non-academic factors as "very important," "important," "considered" and "not considered." The geographical residence of a student is only "considered," but state residency is "important."

"We note our geographic diversity from a statistical point of view, as it's certainly important to what we do," Brown said.

GC's Within Reach program offers incentives targeted toward prospective students from schools in Baldwin County and surrounding areas.

"This outreach includes application days, application fee waivers and college planning seminars," Blakley said.

These incentives will potentially increase the pool of applicants around Baldwin County and surrounding areas. The 2016 class included 318 students from Baldwin County.

"I feel as though the school is trying to diversify, but there always seem to be a minority within pictures either on the website or in pamphlets given to possible students," said GC junior De'onna Pennamon. "It's not as diverse as they make it seem."



Ada Montgomery / Seniorw Photographer

Cassius Young, Jake Pralgo and Tarez Miller all hail from the Atlanta area.

THIS WEEK AT GC

A calendar of events

Around the World in 4 Floors

Wed. Nov. 29th @ 5 p.m.

Foundation Hall

Attendees will receive a "passport," enjoy free international food samples and international music, "travel" to various regions of the world located on Foundation's four floors, and learn about GC's study abroad opportunities from GC study abroad office staff.



The Power of We

Thurs. Nov. 30th @ 7:15 p.m.

The Depot

Join mental health speaker Taylor Wesley for this installment of GC's Minding Your Mental Health series. A Southern-style dinner catered by Ms. Stella's will be served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$8 and may be purchased by cash or Venmo at the fountain area 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

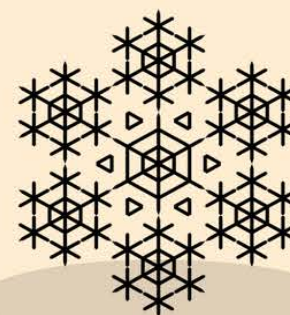


Holiday Concert 2017

Fri. Dec. 1st @ 7:30 p.m.

Russell Auditorium

The 10th annual GC Holiday Concert will feature the Georgia College Jazz Band, Orchestra, Max Noah Singers, University Chorus, Wind Symphony, Women's Ensemble and other small ensembles. The concert is free and will spotlight many classic holiday carols.



GC Softball Prospect Camp

Sun. Dec. 3rd @ 1 p.m.

Peeler Complex Softball Field on West Campus

The Georgia College Softball program and Head Coach Jamie Grodecki will host camps for high schoolers interested in playing softball in college.



For more information, visit frontpage.gcsu.edu.

GC increases suicide prevention and mental health awareness

**Macy
Neal**

Contributing Writer

GC's Office of Health Promotion and GC Counseling Services have teamed up this semester to fight mental health issues on campus by spreading knowledge and support throughout the student body.

Each month, GC kicks off its mission to increase suicide prevention and mental health awareness by hosting an awareness event called "Minding Your Mental Health." For September's event, Student Affairs hosted a suicide prevention seminar with Dr. Figueroa from Coliseum Health Systems.

On Oct. 24, they screened the film "It's Real: College Students and Mental Health," which was created by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The film discussed real students who have dealt with mental health issues and how they coped.

For their November event, speaker Taylor Wesley discussed overall mental wellness for students, speaking about her own struggles and encouraging students to learn healthy coping strategies and ask for help.

The Office of Health Promotion also began a poster campaign on campus with the theme "Mental Health Problems are not Mythical Creatures...They Do Exist." Along with mythical creatures like mermaids, these posters display GC Counseling & Care Line phone numbers and a QR code students can scan to see more Georgia resources for any mental health issues.

"For youth between ages 18 and 24, suicide is the third leading cause of death," reveals the National Center for Health Statistics website. "Suicide

is a serious, but preventable, problem that can have lasting harmful effects on individuals, families and communities."

College is a particularly challenging time for many students, said Susan Spencer, a licensed professional counselor and a certified professional counselor supervisor.

"Homesickness, adjusting to roommates, having to make regular choices independently, peer pressure, feeling alone, managing time and stress are some of the factors that impact mental health," Spencer said.

GC offers numerous resources for students who feel overwhelmed or suicidal, according to Rachel Pope, prevention coordinator for GC's Office of Health Promotion.

"Mental health affects every student, and every student can learn how to cope with the problems that arise," Pope said. "There are many services in place on campus to help students. We care. If you need help, reach out."

Counseling, Student Health Services, The Office of Health Promotion and Public Safety are just a few places students can start looking for help. These GC staff members are trying to get students to use the hashtag #MoreSmilesLessStigma.

"You never know how much a smile can influence even the worst of days," Pope said.

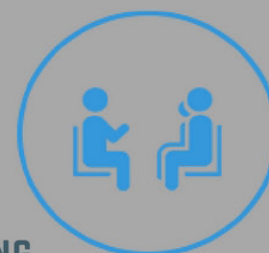
In the last year, the GC Counseling Center has seen approximately 10 percent of the GC population: around 618 students.

"Counseling Services is a supportive and accepting environment for students of all belief systems and identities," said licensed professional counselor Shadisha Bennett Brodde. "All of our therapists have also had training in suicide prevention, and we want to help."

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES



FOR COUNSELING SERVICES:



[HTTP://WWW.GCSU.EDU/COUNSELING](http://www.gcsu.edu/counseling)

[HTTP://WWW.GCSU.EDU/COUNSELING/CARE-TEAM](http://www.gcsu.edu/counseling/care-team)

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GCSUCOUNSELINGSERVICES/](https://www.facebook.com/gcsucounselingservices/)

FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCIES-



THE GA CRISIS & ACCESS LINE IS 1-800-715-4225

THE NATIONAL HOTLINE IS 1-800-273-8255.

TEXT-LINE STUDENTS CAN TEXT AT ANY TIME AND COMMUNICATE WITH A TRAINED COUNSELOR & THE NUMBER IS 741741, JUST TEXT HOME AND SOMEONE WILL RESPOND IF YOU ARE HAVING A CRISIS.

FOR UPDATES:

FOLLOW @GCHEALTHPROMO ON TWITTER

FOLLOW FRONTPAGE TO FIND DATES FOR FUTURE MENTAL HEALTH EVENTS

Senior Alyah McGriff leads in last season at GC basketball

Emily McClure
News Editor

As she dashes down the court, sneakers squeaking, to hurl a basketball through the net, senior Alyah McGriff is also focused on another, larger goal: leading her team to victory in the Peach Belt Conference in her last season at GC.

McGriff, a double major in management and marketing, was recently named to the preseason all-PBC team, but that nominative title bears little impact on her preparation for the coming season.

"It means nothing if we can't do anything as a team," McGriff said. "The most that it means is that people know who I am, and they're going to come after me in the game. It just means you have an 'x' on your back."

Over the past few months, McGriff has been preparing for her senior season by promoting team chemistry. Even before everyone arrived at GC to begin classes in August, McGriff was building friendships by inviting the team over to her house and cooking them dinner.

"She's kind of a mom in that way because she takes care of everybody," said teammate Sydney Cleveland. "If you have a question or need to know something, whether it's what time practice is or what are the MAX's hours, she always has the answer."

McGriff said she planned to focus on leadership this year because she felt like she could have played more of a guiding role on the team during her junior year but didn't take the opportunity.

"I don't want to look back at the end of this year and say that same thing about leadership," McGriff said. "So I've tried to be more vocal and to unite the team and achieve our goals."

"McGriff has achieved a position of respect on the team," said women's basketball head coach Maurice Smith.

According to an old saying, you can either be a thermostat and set the temperature, or you can be a thermometer and reflect the temperature, Smith explained.

"Alyah is a thermostat," Smith said. "She sets the temperature and the tone every day in our practices and our games, and that's the type of person and player she is, that she's very influential. She's a genuine person who has the best interests at heart for her team, so she's easy

to follow."

McGriff goes out of her way to encourage others, according to Jeremy Mayweather, assistant women's basketball coach. She made a point to make him feel welcome when he was new at GC last year.

"She made me cupcakes on my birthday," Mayweather said. "That was the first time I ever shed a tear as a coach."

This semester, Mayweather has helped McGriff step up her game for the upcoming season. She focused on conditioning and added shooting 3's to her abilities. Each year, she tries to add new skills to her game.

"Just to see her development on the court is really tremendous," Smith said. "When Alyah first got here as a freshman, she had so much room for potential and growth and leadership ability, and she has grown leaps and bounds."

From her sophomore year to her junior year, McGriff dramatically enhanced her game, nearly doubling her scoring average, going from 7.9 points per game as a sophomore to 15.1 as a junior. She also saw an increase in her rebounding numbers, increasing from five to eight rebounds per game as a junior. With increases in both categories, McGriff finished the 2016-2017 season with a team-high six double-doubles.

Despite her seriousness about basketball, the 6-foot-tall forward doesn't forget to have fun on the court. Mayweather described a moment when McGriff was on the free throw line during a game at the University of North Georgia, and the announcers pronounced another player's name wrong.

"The game's on the line, now," Mayweather said. "Alyah turns around and looks at me and Coach Mo and says 'They pronounced her name wrong,' while she's on the line, shooting a pressure free-throw." Mayweather leaned forward over his desk with laughter.

Finding Her Way to GC

McGriff picked up a basketball for the first time in eighth grade, which is considered late for students who go on to play college basketball. When the former track star's best friend convinced her to join the team, she had never even considered playing basketball before.

"It's fortunate for us that she didn't because if Alyah would have picked up basketball earlier, she probably would be playing at UGA, or Tennessee, or South Carolina or another Division I school," Smith said. "So everything works out for a reason, and we're glad she started late."

GC's recruiters did not discover McGriff until April of her senior year of high school, when Smith's former assistant coach Toby Wagner saw her play for the first time at a regional all-star game.

"Wagner called me back after this all-star game," Smith said, "and he said 'Mo, I just



Bethany Straus / Staff Photographer

The Bobcats will lean on McGriff's leadership

saw the best high school basketball athlete that I think I've ever seen, and she's not signed anywhere."

McGriff said she had been to GC before when attending a high school basketball camp hosted by the university but had never considered attending college here. When she found out on her official visit that GC's business school is internationally accredited, however, her decision was made.

"I didn't want to tell them right away," McGriff said with a laugh. "But I knew, in the back of my mind, I'm coming here."

The Court at Home

McGriff finds inspiration at home from a family of basketball players. Her dad coached her in high school AAU basketball, and her two sisters, Joshlyn and Jessica, play college basketball at Augusta University and Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia, respectively.

"She has a very kind heart," said Joshlyn Belcher, McGriff's older sister. "You can always count on her for good advice."

The three sisters played basketball together in high school and still play together when they are all home on break at the same time. And because Augusta University and Georgia College are in the same conference, Belcher and McGriff sometimes play against each other during the regular season.

Throughout the years, Belcher said she has watched McGriff mature on and off the court. McGriff always turns to basketball, she said, whether she's having a bad day or just got a great test grade back.

"Basketball is her outlet," Belcher said. "As she grows as a person, so does her basketball game."

ALYAH MCGRIFF PLAYER PROFILE

HEIGHT - 6'0"

HOMETOWN - SUWANEE

POSITION - FORWARD

2016-17 ALL-PBC 2ND TEAM

Bobcats leaning on defense, chemistry in 2017-18

GEORGIA COLLEGE

BOBCATS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

66.0

points per game

#14 in PBC

OVERALL
RECORD

15-13

64.5

points allowed per game

#1 in PBC

7.5

steals per game

#3 in PBC

5.0

blocked shots per game

#2 in PBC

Head Coach:

MARK GAINOUS

4

Years at GC

42-43

Record at GC:

FALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

Fri. 10 vs. Wingate
 Sat. 11 vs. Anderson
 Fri. 17 vs. Barton
 Sat. 18 vs. Carson-Newman
 Mon. 27 vs Lander

DECEMBER

Sat. 2 vs. Augusta
 Mon. 4 vs. Albany St.
 Sat. 9 vs. Albany St.
 Tue. 19 vs. USC Aiken
 Sat. 30 vs. Flagler

ROSTER

Chaz Berry
 Garrick DeBowles
 Isaac Thomas
 Whit Mauney
 Austin Dukes
 Kelvin Nwanze
 Charlie Newell
 Desmond Mitchell-LaFlam
 Matt McCorkle
 Brian Vonck
 Brice Booker
 Ryan Dobbs
 Mark McCorkle
 Kohl Roberts
 Drew Romich

Graham Hill
Staff Writer

After opening its season with a tough loss against a nationally-ranked Queens (N.C.), GC men's basketball rattled off back-to-back wins against Emmanuel (Ga.) and

Paine College before falling to Clark Atlanta on the road.

GC responded after losing their season opener with a 95-86 victory over Emmanuel (Ga.). The Bobcats stifled the Lions in the first half holding them to just 26 points. In the second half, Emmanuel made a comeback after being down by 26 points with just under ten minutes to go, and they eventually cut the deficit to single digits.

When asked what they needed to change in that shaky second half, senior Desmond Mitchell-LaFlam said they needed to execute on the offensive end and not rush their sets.

The Bobcats were led by junior forward Isaac Thomas, who scored 22 points and tallied 12 rebounds on the game. Senior guard Brice Booker provided a spark off the bench for the Bobcats, adding 16 points. Freshman Chapin Rierison also hit double figures, scoring 11.

Freshman Jordan Thomas helped Georgia College cruise past Paine College scoring 18 points on their way to an 83-51 victory for their second win in the season. Mitchell-LaFlam packed the stat sheet with 13 points, seven assists, four rebounds and three steals.

Third-year head coach Mark Gainous spoke about how all the goals for the season are set by the players, rather than the coaching staff.

"One of the goals that they have is they want to win the Peach Belt Conference," Gainous said.

In order to accomplish that goal, the Bobcats will look to lean on their strong defense, as they have high expectations on that end of the court.

"As a team, we want to try and be the number one defense in the country," Thomas said.

Another key for the Bobcats this season is a selfless team attitude. Thomas mentioned that none of the players really have individual goals for the year, and everyone seems to be focused on the team working as a unit. Gainous also said he was excited about the attitude his team has shown already this season.

"One thing I like about this group is they're very unselfish," Gainous said. "The chemistry has been pretty good, and as the season goes on, I expect it to get even better."

The Peach Belt Conference appears to be a highly competitive league this year with UNC-Pembroke topping the preseason coaches' poll. The coaches predicted GC to finish seventh in the conference, a higher ranking than it has received in past years, according to Gainous. However, no game is a given for the Bobcats.

"We can win or lose any night," Isaac Thomas said.

Gainous predicted that there won't be a dominant team in the conference this season and that it will be a very tight race for the top spot.

GC has already seen multiple freshmen stepping into major roles on the team this season. Freshman Jordan Thomas, a recent graduate of Heritage High School is currently leading the team in scoring, averaging just over 12 points per game. Three freshmen are in the top seven in minutes per game with Chapin Pierson, leading the way averaging 23 minutes per game. Jordan Thomas (22.7) and Justin Cave (15.7) follow closely behind.

When asked about his early impact on the team in just his first season, Rierison gave all credit to the veterans on the team.

"It's awesome," Rierison said. "I love playing with these older guys. They're very experienced. I just come in, and really they do most of the work. I just benefit off them."

The Bobcats travel to Lander Nov. 27 before returning to the Centennial Center for their conference home opener against Augusta Dec. 2.



Bobcat women eyeing PBC Championship, NCAA tourney bid

**McKenzie
Julian**
Staff Writer

"I knew we had to hit shots and shoot a really good percentage from the offensive end, and we didn't do that," said Bobcats' head coach Maurice Smith of his team's opening-game loss.

Although the first few games have not gone as hoped for, senior forward Alyah McGriff is excited for the rest of the season.

"There's a lot of room for improvement, and we have a lot of potential," McGriff said. "I think we can reach that full potential when we need to, during conference time."

The team worked on strength and conditioning during the preseason to make sure they were in prime shape. Kurt Reinhard is the team's strength and conditioning coach and has been diligently working with the players.

"He does a phenomenal job with our program, and we always feel like we're in great shape because of the work that he does," Smith said.

The team officially started practicing on Oct. 15, giving them only three weeks to prepare for the season. With multiple freshmen joining this year, the team is working on building chemistry together, both on and off the court.

Upperclassmen like McGriff and junior shooting guard Sydney Cleveland have taken on more leadership-focused roles on the team to help the freshmen acclimate with the team to create that chemistry.

"Answering any questions and really being there for the teammates is one of my priorities," Cleveland said.

In addition to growing chemistry, the team looks to improve both offensively and defensively.

In practices, the team focuses on creating and taking shots, rebounding, free throws and preventing their opponent from scoring. One big goal for the season is allowing only 14 turnovers per game to prevent opposing teams from gaining more scoring opportunities. The team is working hard to improve and reach these goals through practice.

"Coach always tells us practices need to be harder than the game," Cleveland said. "They need to be tougher than the game."

The team is looking to win the Peach Belt Tournament this year. According to Smith, the goals that the team has set will push them into a good position to win.

"We want a Peach Belt Championship and we want to make it to the NCAA Tournament," McGriff said. "Those are two of our goals right now. We plan on doing that by winning all home games [and] winning at least half of our away games."

The team has high aspirations for the season but have a shot of performing well.

"Overall, [I'm] super happy with our team," Smith said. "I love our team attitude. These young ladies are super fun to coach. They're high energy. They work hard. It's really a pleasure to get a chance to work with them, and there's no doubt that I think we're going to have an amazing year."

Despite having a rough beginning to the season, the GC women's basketball team is remaining optimistic as their season gets underway.

GEORGIA COLLEGE

BOBCATS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

OVERALL RECORD

14.4

assists per game

#4 in PBC

60.8

points scored per game

#12 in PBC

15 - 12



58.6

points allowed per game

#1 in PBC

3.7

blocked shots per game

#6 in PBC

Head Coach:

MAURICE SMITH

8

Years at GC

103-92

Record at GC

FALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

Fri. 11 vs. at Pfeiffer
 Sat. 12 vs. Emmanuel
 Tue. 15 vs. Morehouse
 Sat. 19 vs. Tuskegee
 Tue. 22 vs. Albany St.
 Mon. 28 vs. Clark Atlanta
 Wed. 30 vs. Tuskegee

DECEMBER

Sat. 3 vs. Albany St.
 Sat. 17 vs. Armstrong State
 Mon. 19 vs. Flagler Flagler
 Sat. 31 vs. Erskine

ROSTER

LaRice Walker
 Christina Thomas
 Kenyatta Storms
 Dionna Hartfield
 Ta'Asia Wright
 Landry Rushing
 Ana Anderson
 Jalyn Slaughter
 Alyah McGriff
 Ellie Fruit
 Brianna Davis
 Shay Tarver
 Lindsey Reed
 Sydney Cleveland
 Dail Adaway
 Veronica Ryan

This Week in

BOBCAT ATHLETICS

November 29-December 5

Nov. 29	Dec. 2	Dec. 4
<div>Volleyball vs. USC-Aiken @ Flagler 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>After knocking off the Pacers in their final regular season meeting and the PBC Tournament, GC will look to win its third match in a row against their rivals to advance in the NCAA Tournament. A win on Thursday would push GC into the second round on Dec. 1 at Flagler.</div>	<div>Basketball vs. Augusta @ Centennial Center Women @ 1:30 p.m. - Men @ 3:30 p.m.</div> <div>After getting conference play under way Monday night at Lander, the Bobcats return home for another PBC showdown with Augusta University Saturday afternoon. The women will begin at 1:30, followed by the men.</div>	<div>Basketball vs. Albany State @ Centennial Center Women @ 6 p.m. - Men @ 8 p.m.</div> <div>GC will step out of conference play to take on Albany State Monday night at home. The women's tipoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. followed by the men at 8 in Centennial Center.</div>

Infographic courtesy of Isaiah Smith



Looking forward to the holidays?

Don't forget to add Study Abroad to your wish list this season!

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What are you thankful for? Find out what the little things mean to GC students.



SMELLS LIKE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Four ways to enjoy the holiday season right here in Milly

*Compiled by Kaylin Martinko and Macy Neal
Staff Writers*



. Christmas Parade



Photo courtesy of Nancy Miller

This year, your holidays will not be lacking in Christmas cheer because the community of Milledgeville and Georgia College is providing several holiday festivities that are sure to make you want to put on a cozy sweater, grab a hot chocolate and turn up the Christmas music.

With the holiday season quickly approaching, GC's music department offers a festive and free way to get into the holiday spirit: their tenth annual Christmas concert.

This year's concert will be held on Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m., alongside Downtown Milledgeville's first Friday of December celebration which includes the annual lighting of the Christmas tree downtown.

The concert will feature performances by all of the music department's ensemble groups, including the Jazz Band, the Orchestra, the Men's Quartet and the University Chorus.

Not only will the concert feature beloved, classic jingles like "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls," but it will also feature some Latin songs and a few Christmas parodies. These will include the Men's Quartet's rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas (What the Heck was That?)," which they perform every year, and The Max Noah Singers' version of "Good King Kong Looked Out."

The concert requires a ticket that can be picked up in Porter 202 but is free. The music department is, however, accepting \$10 donations for scholarships for music students.

"I think this is something people have come to expect since we've been doing it for so long," said Jennifer Flory, professor of music. "It began as a way to raise money for the music students. It's something that showcases our best but also gives the community a Christmas, or holiday, event to go to."

2. Christmas Tree Lighting



Photo courtesy of Nancy Miller

For 30 years, a towering metal Christmas tree stood mounted on a Georgia Power building on Highway 441, so large that everyone who drove by could see its lights. Now, that very same tree has become a part of downtown Milledgeville's Christmas tradition.

On the first Friday of December every year, Milledgeville's Pilot Club lights up downtown with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

This event has lasted for 30 years and initially began as a service project to the community, involving a partnership with Georgia College and a live cedar tree in front of the old court house.

In 2015, the cedar tree died, and the Pilot Club partnered with Milledgeville Mainstreet to continue bringing Christmas cheer to the community every first Friday of December.

So the tradition continued, but now with a metal tree. The event takes place in front of The Local Yolka where the tree is anchored and then lit by one of the Pilot Club members.

The Pilot Club and Milledgeville Mainstreet provide hot chocolate, cookies and the opportunity to get pictures with Santa, who is escorted into town on a firetruck.

According to Nancy Miller, a member of Milledgeville's Pilot Club, "This has always been the kickoff to Christmas in downtown Milledgeville."

3. The Nutcracker

On Dec. 8th, 9th and 10th, GC's Community Dance program and the Department of Theatre and Dance are presenting their 21st annual Nutcracker Ballet, directed by Amelia Pelton.

All three shows will be performed in the Russell Auditorium. The first two shows begin at 7 p.m., and the third show begins at 2 p.m. Tickets will start at \$11 and can be bought at GCSUtickets.com or at the door an hour prior to the show. The theatre reminds you to get there early because seats will fill up quickly.

When asked about The Nutcracker, Amelia Pelton said, "This is my favorite time of year and directing the Nutcracker is my favorite aspect of my job at GC. Seeing the excitement of the students of all ages as we prepare and their development as dancers gives me huge satisfaction. We now have second-generation dancers taking dance from us, and children of former students are with us."

Over 200 dancers from ages three and up, including GC's award winning cheerleaders and two guest artists, will be dancing the night away for this annual holiday spectacular. In addition, this year they will have a 22-foot-long Chinese fabric dragon.

GC's The Nutcracker Ballet is a beautiful rendition of the classic fairy tale Christmas story to bring students, faculty and locals together to begin celebrating the holidays.



Ada Montgomery/Senior Photographer

4. ChrisYuleHanzaKaa

On Nov. 14, GC’s Jewish organization, Hillel, sponsored Interfaith’s free dinner for students and faculty to celebrate different religions and talk about the season’s meanings. Georgia College’s Interfaith began seven years ago when GC experienced a racist and antisemitism act on campus. Since then, Interfaith has made it their mission to end discrimination on campus.

The dinner was held in the University’s Banquet Room and was led by Dr. Karen Berman. This culturally enriching dinner gathered to spread diversity throughout Georgia College in order to get into the holiday spirit. The night began with a buffet of traditional Jewish food and holiday games, like playing dreidel.

“The Jewish organization on campus Hillel is proud to sponsor the Interfaith Dinner each along with the Inter-Views Alliance and the Interfaith Council and the Cultural Center,” said Dr. Berman. “The free Interfaith dinner that we call ‘ChrisYuleHanzaKaa’ promotes respect for all religions and unity in diversity. We began these dinners some years ago to combat racism and Anti-Semitism that was evident in plastic Easter Eggs

placed all over campus by an outside group. Since we began our Interfaith dinners, we have felt a positive change in the campus culture.”

The first speaker, Rabbi Aaron Rubinstein who attends a synagogue in Macon, discussed traditional Hanukkah customs and the Jewish people’s dedication to the temple. He told attendees to think about what their purpose is and what they dedicate themselves to.

The third speaker, Dr. Cynthia Alby, informed attendees of the Unitarian Universalist church in Macon, which is a faith tradition church that includes all religions and welcomes everyone. This style of church is meant for families of split religious beliefs and for people who don’t have one specific religion. Lastly, Dr. Melanie Devore spoke briefly about Christmas and the holiday season.

Interfaith wants students to know that GC is a place where all religious belief systems can be respected, appreciated and incorporated.



Macy Neal/Staff Photographer



THE NUTCRACKER

Dec. 8-9 at 7 p.m. & Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. in Russell Auditorium



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